

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1, 2-4, 8-11, 13-15, 17-20, 22-24 and 26-28 have been pending.

Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter.

Claims 1, 2-4, 8-11, 13-15, 17-20, 22-24 and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Tafoya et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,952,805 (hereinafter "Tafoya").

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 28 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and the claims are amended, and, thus, the pending claims remain for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added.

The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) REJECTION:

Independent claims 1, 10 and 19 are allegedly anticipated by Tafoya.

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 is amended to recite, in part, "an adding module adding a group name of the generated group to group management information in said history of mail delivery stored in the E-mail device." Support for the claim amendment can be found, for example, in FIG. 3 and the accompanying description in the original specification.

The Office Action, at item 7, asserts that Tafoya, at column 2, lines 25-41, column 6, line 65 to column 7, lines 21 and column 9, lines 27-39, discloses the claimed "generating a group formed of the plurality of multicast target mail destination addresses detected in said history of mail delivery, said group capable of including destination addresses of various destination attributes, when the input count of the detected multicast target mail destination addresses reaches a predetermined number," as recited in claim 1.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the assertion, because Tafoya at column 2, lines 25-41 recites:

The system and method automatically **tracks and maintains entries, such as contacts or email addresses** and organizes and maintains the tracked entries in a dynamic resolution list. **As a user begins to input an email address or contact in an input**

entry area, the system of the present invention can either automatically complete the entry using a most probable result from the dynamic list, or can display a list of likely matches from which the user may select the desired email address or contact. Further, the list may also be accessed via a user interface that provides the user with options such as, for example, editing, saving, and exporting the list. As one example, the completion information can be presented to the user as an overlaid mini user interface pane, such as a "pop-up" user interface area. The "pop-up" user interface automatically appears over the current user interface in close proximity to the input entry area and contains the organized completion information.

That is, Tafoya discusses that email addresses are tracked and if a user begins to type in an email address, the system will attempt to guess which email address the user is attempting to input. Further, Tafoya, at column 6, lines 65 to column 7, line 21, recites:

The PIM scans the data store from which it extracts email addresses and contact information that is weighted and used to initially populate a dynamic resolution list 270. **Data from the resolution list is then made available to the user via a user interface 280.** This process is preferably repeated to rebuild or restore the resolution list after a "crash" or other unexpected event occurs that causes the resolution list to be lost. Once the initial resolution list is initially populated, it is preferably dynamically updated with new email address and contact information as that information enters the data store.

FIG. 3 is a flowchart illustrating the general operational features of the present invention. First, the invention preferably initially populates the resolution list with email and contact entries in the data store 300. The invention then analyzes the characteristics of entries in the data store 310. **Once the entries have been analyzed, the most recently used entries of the data store are determined 320. The entries are then used to selectively populate a temporary storage area, i.e. the resolution list, based on predetermined population rules 330.** Access is then provided to the storage area via a user interface for facilitating generation of dynamic completion information for an email or contact entry by the user 340.

In other words, Tafoya discusses that most recently used email addresses will be put on a resolution list and that the data of the resolution list will be made available to the user through a user interface. Further still, Tafoya at column 9, lines 27-39, recites:

Repeated instances of identical email addresses or contact information within a single item in the data store preferably do not have a multiplier effect on the weight of an entry in the resolution list. Further, multiple duplicate entries are preferably not added to the resolution list in this case. For example, if

"joes@ips.com" is entered more than once in the "To" field of a message, or in more than one place in the message, the effect on the weight of the entry will be the same as if it was entered only once on the "To" line. However, repeated instances of the email address or contact information within multiple items in the data store preferably serves to increase the weight of the associated entry in the resolution list.

In other words, Tafoya discusses that if an email address is input in the "To" line multiple times, the email address will not have a multiplier effect on the weight of an entry in the resolution list.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Tafoya fails to disclose, either expressly or inherently (necessarily), the claimed **"generating a group formed of the plurality of multicast target mail destination addresses detected in said history of mail delivery, said group capable of including destination addresses of various destination attributes, when the input count of the detected multicast target mail destination addresses reaches a predetermined number,"** because Tafoya fails to generate any groups including destination addresses of various destination attributes, when the input count of the detected multicast target mail destination addresses reaches a predetermined number.

Further, the Office Action, at item 7, asserts that Tafoya, at column 4, lines 34-49, discloses the claimed "adding a group name ... ," as recited, in claim 1.

Applicants respectfully disagree, because Tafoya, at column 4, lines 34-49, recites:

The present invention uses information of the email store to initially populate a dynamic "resolution list" with entries, such as email addresses or contacts. Following the initial population of the resolution list, the entries are dynamically organized and updated as new information enters the data store. Specifically, email addresses and contacts are cached in an in-memory resolution list accessible by address resolution code. **As a user begins to input an email address or contact, a system and method according to the present invention automatically suggests one or more entries, with the most likely entry preferably highlighted, by using the most probable results from the resolution list.** The user may then pick the appropriate data. Additionally, the user is preferably allowed to continue to enter data when the completion information does not match the address or contact intended by the user.

In other words, Tafoya discusses storing email addresses in a resolution list and when a user begins typing in an email address, Tafoya's system will suggest an email address stored in the list.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Tafoya fails to disclose, either expressly or inherently (necessarily), the claimed **"adding a group name of the generated group to group management information in said history of mail delivery stored in the E-mail device,"** because Tafoya merely discusses storing email addresses in a resolution list and when a user begins typing in an email address, suggesting an email address stored in the list.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that an anticipation rejection cannot be based upon Tafoya, because Tafoya fails to disclose, either expressly or inherently (necessarily), each and every feature of the claimed embodiments, including the claimed "generating module generating a group formed of the plurality of multicast target mail destination addresses detected in said history of mail delivery, said group capable of including destination addresses of various destination attributes, when the input count of the detected multicast target mail destination addresses reaches a predetermined number; and an adding module adding a group name of the generated group to group management information in said history of mail delivery stored in the E-mail device," as recited in claim 1, because Tafoya merely discusses storing email addresses in a resolution list and when a user begins typing in an email address, suggesting an email address stored in the list.

In other words, Tafoya is silent on generating a group capable of including destination addresses of various destination attributes, when the input count of the detected multicast target mail destination addresses reaches a predetermined number, and adding a group name to group management information in the history of mail delivery.

Dependent claims are patentably distinguishing at least due to their dependence from the independent claims and/or for reciting patentably distinguishing features of their own. Withdrawal of the rejection of the pending claims and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

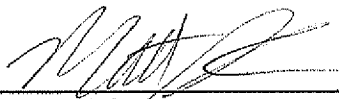
Serial No. 09/764,308

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: April 2, 2008

By: 
Matthew H. Polson
Registration No. 58,841

1201 New York Avenue, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501